

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 01854 160030Z

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ACTION ARA-20

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R 152333Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7039

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1854

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, CS

SUBJECT: U.S. DELEGATION TO INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT ODUBER

1. SENATOR LAWTON CHILES (DEMOCRAT OF FLORIDA), CONGRESSMAN MANUEL LUJAN, JR. (REPUBLICAN OF NEW MEXICO) AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. LYLE F. LANE REPRESENTED THE PRESIDENT AT THE MAY 8 INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT DANIEL ODUBER AND RELATED FESTIVITIES. ALTHOUGH THE SENATOR'S NECESSARILY EARLY DEPARTURE THE FOLLOWING DAY, OCCASIONED BY URGENT SENATE BUSINESS, DID NOT PERMIT HIM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FINALSUOCIAL EVENTS, CLNGRESSMAN LUJAN SUBSTITUTED FOR HIM THERE AS CHIEF OF DELEGATION MOST GRACIOUSLY.

2. THE VISITING MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION DESERVE PARTICULAR PRAISE FOR THE SPIRIT AND SENSITIAITY WITH WHICH

THEY CARRIED OUT THEIR MISSION. BOTH SENATOR CHILES, WHO IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF PRESIDENT ODUBER, AND CONGRESSMAN LUJAN WERE VERY WELL RECEIVED HERE AND EFFECTIVELY REPREUSNTED THE U.S. ON THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION.

3. THE GOCR ASSIGNED AS ESCORTS TO SENATOR CHILES AND CONGRESSMAN LUJAN RESPECTIVELY THE OUTGOING MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO WASHINGTON RODOLFO SILVA VARGAS, AND EX-AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON
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PAGE 02 SAN JO 01854 160030Z

RAFAEL A. SUNIGA. BOTH ESCORTS WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO

MAKE THE DELEGATION'S VISIT A PLEASANT ONE.

4. THE DELEGATION PRESENTED PRESIDENT NIXON'S GIFT OF AN ELSSANT DESK SET TO PRESIDENT ODUBER AT THE LATTER'S RECEPTION ON THE EVENING OF MAY 8. PRESIDENT ODUBER LATER EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE GIVT GESTURE, WHICH, AS FAR AS WE COULD OBSERVE, WAS MADE BY ONLY A FEW OTHER DELEGATIONS.

5. THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION FROM PUERTO RICO WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHARGE (AS WERE THE VISITING CONGRESSMEN) AND WAS INCLUDED IN THE EMBASSY'S ACTIVITIES TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE. AT THEIR REQUEST, THE THREE PUERGWY RICAN DELEGATES CALLED ON THE CHARGE ON MAY 7. THEY WERE PROVIDED WITH THE SAME EMBASSY ICCORMATIONAL MATERIALS ON COSTA RICA AND THE INAUGURAL PROGRAM WHICH ANRE PREPARED FOR THE U.S. DELEGATION, AND THEY ATTENDED THE CHARGE'S BUFFET SUPPER IN HONOR OF BOTH DELEGATION. THE PUERTO RICAN

DELEGATION WAS BOTH SENSITIVE AND COOPERATIVE IN AVOIDING ANY UNDUE AWKWARDNESS RESULTING FROM ITS PRESENCE VIS-A-VIS THE OFFICIAL U. S. DELEGATION. THE COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

WAS ALSO SENSITIVE TO THIS SITUATION IN PLACING THE PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION AFTER THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE EVEN THOUGH PUERTO RICO ACCREDITED ITS REPRESENTATIVES EARLIER.

6. USIS PHOTOS OF SENATOR CHILES AND CONGRESSMAN LUJAN WILL BE SENT PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON FOR FORWARDING. PRESS CLIPPINGS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT TO SENATOR CHILES' OFFICE AT MRS. CHILES' REQUEST. COPIES OF THE OFICIAL INAUGURATION PROGRAM WILL BE POUCHED FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S FILES.
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